

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5993

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that beneficiaries of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance receive financial counseling and disclosure information regarding life insurance payments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HALL of New York, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that beneficiaries of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance receive financial counseling and disclosure information regarding life insurance payments, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing America’s
5 Veterans Insurance Needs and Goals Act of 2010” or the
6 “SAVINGS Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND DISCLOSURE INFOR-**
2 **MATION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE**
3 **INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES.**

4 (a) FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND DISCLOSURE IN-
5 FORMATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1966 of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following new subsection:

9 “(e)(1) In order to be an eligible life insurance com-
10 pany under this section, a life insurance company shall
11 provide financial counseling to a beneficiary or other per-
12 son otherwise entitled to payment upon the establishment
13 of a valid claim under section 1970(a) of this title.

14 “(2) The financial counseling provided pursuant to
15 paragraph (1) shall—

16 “(A) be provided both orally and in writing; and

17 “(B) include full disclosure with respect to the
18 payment of the claim, including, at a minimum—

19 “(i) a comparison of the advantages and
20 disadvantages of maintaining such payment
21 with the life insurance company and maintain-
22 ing such payment with a financial institution;

23 “(ii) a comparison of the rate of interest
24 bearing to such payment if the payment is
25 maintained with the life insurance company and

1 if the payment is maintained with a financial
2 institution;

3 “(iii) an explanation of whether maintain-
4 ing such payment with the life insurance com-
5 pany results in the payment not being insured
6 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
7 and

8 “(iv) other relevant information.

9 “(3) In order to be an eligible life insurance company
10 under this section, a life insurance company may not
11 charge any fees to a beneficiary or other person otherwise
12 entitled to payment upon the establishment of a valid
13 claim under section 1970(a) with respect to maintaining
14 such payment with the company.

15 “(4) The Secretary shall include in each annual per-
16 formance and accountability report submitted by the Sec-
17 retary to Congress information concerning—

18 “(A) the number of individuals who received fi-
19 nancial counseling under paragraph (1);

20 “(B) the information received by such individ-
21 uals during such counseling; and

22 “(C) any recommendations, complaints, or
23 other information with respect to such counseling
24 that the Secretary considers relevant.”.

1 (2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out sec-
3 tion 1966(e) of title 38, United States Code, as
4 added by paragraph (1).

5 (b) OFFICE OF SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE.—

6 (1) ADVISORY ROLE.—Subsection (b) of section
7 321 of such title is amended—

8 (A) by striking “The Office” and inserting
9 “(1) The Office”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2) The Director of the Office shall attend each
12 meeting of the Advisory Council on Servicemembers’
13 Group Life Insurance under section 1974 of this title.”.

14 (2) RESOURCES.—Subsection (d) of such sec-
15 tion is amended—

16 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
17 serting “(1) The Secretary”; and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary
20 shall ensure that the Office has the personnel necessary
21 to serve as a resource to provide individuals described in
22 paragraph (1) and (2) of subsection (a) with information
23 on how to receive the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insur-

- 1 ance financial counseling pursuant to section 1966(e)(1)
- 2 of this title.”.

